

REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, 24, and 26-28, as amended, remain herein.

Applicants appreciate the statements in the Office Action that claims 4-6, 11, 15-17, 24-26 and 28 are allowed and that claims 7, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the independent claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3, 10 and 11 have been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 12, thereby making claims 3, 10 and 11 allowable. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 4, thereby making claim 7 allowable. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 10, thereby making claim 13 allowable. Allowed claim 26 has been amended to depend from claim 11. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 14, 21-23, 25 and non-elected claims 18-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

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1. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by JP 05-284513. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 21-23 have been canceled, and claims 3 and 10 are allowable as explained herein, thereby mooting the rejection.

2. Claims 14 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP '513. Claim 14 has been canceled, and claim 27 depends from allowable claim 10, thereby mooting the rejection.

All claims 3-7, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, 24, and 26-28 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 3-7, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, 24, and 26-28 is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 31, 2005

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